



SHILAP Revista de lepidopterología

ISSN: 0300-5267

ISSN: 2340-4078

avives@orange.es

Sociedad Hispano-Luso-Americana de Lepidopterología  
España

Agius, J.; Formosa, J.

*Stemmatophora combustalis* (Fischer von Röslerstamm,  
1842) new to the Maltese Islands (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae)

SHILAP Revista de lepidopterología, vol. 48, no. 190, 2020, -July, pp. 223-224

Sociedad Hispano-Luso-Americana de Lepidopterología  
España

Available in: <https://www.redalyc.org/articulo.oa?id=45563484002>

- How to cite
- Complete issue
- More information about this article
- Journal's webpage in redalyc.org

redalyc.org

Scientific Information System Redalyc

Network of Scientific Journals from Latin America and the Caribbean, Spain and  
Portugal

Project academic non-profit, developed under the open access initiative

# *Stemmatophora combustalis* (Fischer von Röslerstamm, 1842) new to the Maltese Islands (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae)

J. Agius & J. Formosa

## Abstract

*Stemmatophora combustalis* (Fischer von Röslerstamm, 1842) is reported for the first time from the Maltese Islands. Distribution and habits of the adult and larvae are included. A Maltese name is proposed for this new record.

KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Pyralidae, *Stemmatophora combustalis*, Malta.

*Stemmatophora combustalis* (Fischer von Röslerstamm, 1842) nueva para Malta  
(Lepidoptera: Pyralidae)

## Resumen

*Stemmatophora combustalis* (Fischer von Röslerstamm, 1842) se menciona por primera vez para Malta. Se incluye la distribución y hábitat del adulto y de la larva. Se propone un nombre maltés para este nuevo registro.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Lepidoptera, Pyralidae, *Stemmatophora combustalis*, Malta.

## Introduction

The superfamily Pyraloidea is composed of about 16,000 described species worldwide (HEPPNER, 1991) with 914 species recorded from Europe (NUSS *et al.*, 2004). On the Maltese Islands around 141 Pyraloidea species have been recorded so far with the latest addition being *Cydalima perspectalis* (Walker, 1859) (AGIUS, 2018).

The genus *Stemmatophora* Guenée, 1854 which is distributed in Europe, Africa and the Middle East is very often synonymised with the genus *Actenia* Guenée, 1854 and the genus *Scotomerodes* Ragonot, 1895. In SLAMKA (2006), all the three genera have been used however for the purpose of this paper, the genus *Stemmatophora* Guenée, 1854 has been selected based on the website ([http://www.lepiforum.de/lepiwiki.pl?Pyralidae\\_Europa](http://www.lepiforum.de/lepiwiki.pl?Pyralidae_Europa)). Altogether there are 10 species in the genus *Stemmatophora* Guenée, 1854 in Europe and only *Stemmatophora brunnealis* (Treitschke, 1829) has so far been recorded for the Maltese Islands (SAMMUT, 2000). Normally *Stemmatophora* species are characterised by bipectinate or ciliate antennae of the male and filiform antennae of the female.

## Material

MALTA, 1 ♂, Fomm ir-Rih, 20-VI-2019, leg. J. Formosa.

## Discussion

*Stemmatophora combustalis* (Fischer von Röslerstamm, 1842) is distributed in South Europe from Portugal, South of France to Turkey including the neighbouring island of Sicily. The species inhabits dry open habitats. The larvae are detritophagus, that is they feed on dead or wilted leaves and flowers in silken tubes of *Helianthemum* sp., *Thymus* sp. and *Genista scorpius* (L.) DC (SLAMKA, 2006). In Malta, *Thymus capitata* (L.) Hoffmanns. & Link is a common species found in rocky places and garigue whilst *Helianthemum thymifolium* (L.) Webb and *Helianthemum arabica* (L.) Spach are frequent species found in garigue and rocky sites as well (WEBER, 2006). However so far there is no evidence that *Stemmatophora combustalis* (Fischer von Röslerstamm, 1842) is breeding in the Maltese Islands.

The species is new to the Maltese lepidopterofauna. The authors propose the Maltese name *Stemmatofora mahruqa*, after a transliteration of the scientific name.

## Acknowledgments

The authors are grateful to Dr. Antonio Vives for the Spanish abstract.



**Fig. 1.**– *Stemmatophora combustalis* (Fischer von Röslerstamm, 1842).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- AGIUS, J., 2018.– Pest species *Cydalima perspectalis* (Walker, 1859) new to the Maltese Islands (Lepidoptera: Crambidae).– *SHILAP Revista de lepidopterología*, **46**(184): 577-579.
- HEPPNER, J. B., 1991.– Faunal regions and diversity of Lepidoptera.– *Tropical Lepidoptera*, **2** (supplement 1): 185.
- NUSS, M., SEGERER, A. & SPEIDEL, W., 2004.– Crambidae, Pyralidae, Thyrididae.– In O. KARSHOLT & E. J. VAN NIEUKURKEN. *Fauna Europaea: Lepidoptera, Moths*. Fauna Europaea version 1.1. Available from <http://www.faunaeur.org>.
- RENNWALD, E., 2018. – Pyralidae of Europe. Available from [http://www.lepiforum.de/lepiwiki.pl?Pyralidae\\_Europa](http://www.lepiforum.de/lepiwiki.pl?Pyralidae_Europa) (accessed 08th November 2019).
- SAMMUT, P., 2000.– Kullana Kulturali. 12 - *Il-Lepidoptera*: X + 246 pp. Publikazzjonijiet Indipendenza, Malta.
- SLAMKA, F., 2006.– *Pyraloidea of Europe*, **1**: 138 pp. František Slamka, Bratislava.
- WEBER, H. C., 2006.– *Flora of the Maltese Islands*: 383 pp. Margraf Publishers.

\*J. A.  
166 'Infinity'  
Vjal ix-Xarolla  
MT-Zurriq, ZRQ1617  
MALTA / MALTA  
E-mail: jonagius@msn.com  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4875-0524>

J. F.  
270 Liedna Street  
MT-Fgura, FGR1010  
MALTA / MALTA  
E-mail: justin\_formosa@hotmail.com  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-5328-1876>

\*Autor para la correspondencia / *Corresponding author*

(Recibido para publicación / *Received for publication* 14-XI-2019)  
(Revisado y aceptado / *Revised and accepted* 20-XII-2019)  
(Publicado / *Published* 30-VI-2020)